

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ode et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0024183). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose (or suggest) a liquid crystal display device that includes, among other things, a flexible printed circuit board having at least two driver integrated circuits (ICs) that are cascaded with respect to the input signals.

The Examiner cites FIGs. 19A and 19B of Ode as disclosing a flexible printed circuit board FPC1 having driver IC's mounted thereon. However, as best seen in FIG. 19A, the display device includes a flexible printed circuit board FPC1 and a separate second flexible circuit board FPC2. The flexible printed circuit board FPC1 has no integrated circuit, but instead has elements EP attached thereto. The elements EP are chip parts such as resistors and capacitors (see paragraph [0173]). The second flexible circuit board FPC2 is similarly arranged. Semiconductor chips IC1 and IC2, which correspond to driver ICs, are mounted on glass substrates (see paragraphs [0171] and [0172]). Ode fails to teach having device IC's directly attached to a flexible printed circuit board. For at least this reason, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Moreover, in addition to the above, Ode does not disclose or suggest a flexible printed circuit board that has at least two driver ICs mounted thereon that are cascaded with respect to the input signals.

The Examiner indicates in paragraph [0018] that at least two driver ICs are cascaded with respect to input signals. Applicant respectfully traverses this statement of the Examiner. Paragraph [0018] merely states:

the driving circuit has a first circuit for outputting a first voltage and a second voltage in accordance with one display data value, a second circuit for receiving the first and second voltages and outputting one of a plurality of voltages generated from the first and second voltages, and a switch circuit for switching input terminals of the second circuit to which the first and second voltages are input.

Nowhere in the above paragraph does Ode teach two driver ICs cascaded with respect to input signals. Ode merely teaches a switch circuit for switching input terminals of the second circuit.

As shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, two driver ICs 28 are mounted on each flexible printed circuit board 26 and are cascaded or cascaded-connected with respect to the input signals (see Applicant's specification page 5, lines 7-14). Since Ode also fails to disclose at least two cascaded driver IC's on a flexible printed circuit board, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested for this reason as well.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ode and further in view of Murai et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0057235). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above, and because Murai fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Ode reference.

Murai is directed to a display device that includes a display panel and a flexible printed circuit board. Murai is merely recited by the Examiner as teaching a plurality of flexible printed circuit boards (FIG. 7, element 3). However, each of the flexible printed circuit boards 3 shown in FIG. 7 of Murai has a single driver IC mounted thereto. Murai fails to teach or suggest having at least two driver IC's mounted to a flexible printed circuit board. Murai also fails to teach cascading of at least two driver IC's with respect to the input signals. Rather, Murai teaches away from using a driver IC with a flexible printed circuit board by stating that "since it is unnecessary to provide a flexible printed circuit board with a driver IC unit 4, material costs are less expensive" (see paragraph [0054]). For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 2 based on the Ode and Murai references is respectfully requested.

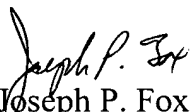
Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ode. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above. More specifically, since Ode fails to disclose at least two driver circuits on a single flexible printed circuit board, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that Ode disclosed at least two printed circuit boards on an integrated circuit, Ode still fails to disclose or suggest a cascade arrangement of the driver ICs. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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